

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /020 W

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R 252315Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL CALGARY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1589

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS CALGARY 0079

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, PINT, CA

SUBJ: JOE CLARK: BACKGROUND BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. JOE CLARK'S VICTORY IN THE FEB. 22 ELECTION IN OTTAWA FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY WAS A STUNNING UPSET OVER OLDER AND SUPPOSEDLY INVINCIBLE FAVORITES IN THE RACE. IN A PERIOD OF A RELATIVELY FEW MONTHS, CLARK HAS EFFECTIVELY CHANGED HIS IMAGE FROM A LITTLE KNOWN PC BACKBENCHER FROM ALBERTA TO AN AGGRESSIVE NATIONAL POLITICIAN, APPARENTLY POSSESSING SUPPORT IN ALL PARTS OF CANADA.

2. CHARLES JOSEPH CLARK WAS BORN JUNE 5, 1939 AT HIGH RIVER, A SMALL TOWN OF 3,000 POPULATION LOCATED 45 MILES SOUTH OF CALGARY. HIS FATHER AND GRANDFATHER PUBLISHED A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER IN THAT COMMUNITY. HIS GRANDFATHER, CHARLES CLARK, SR., CAME TO CANADA FROM SCOTLAND AND HIS GRANDMOTHER CAME TO CANADA FROM BAY CITY, MICHIGAN. JOE'S MOTHER, GRACE WELCH, TAUGHT SCHOOL IN THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL AT HIGH RIVER, AND JOE HAS ONE BROTHER, PETER, WHO PRACTICES LAW IN CALGARY. CLARK ATTENDED HIGH SCHOOL AT HIGH RIVER AND IS REMEMBERED AS A QUIET INDIVIDUAL WHO PREFERRED STUDYING TO THE NATIONAL PASTIME OF HOCKEY. HE HAS A B.A. DEGREE IN HISTORY AND A M.A. DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA.

3. CLARK TOYED WITH BECOMING A JOURNALIST AND AT VARIOUS TIMES, WROTE FOR THREE ALBERTA NEWSPAPERS. HIS DOMINANT UNCLASSIFIED

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INTEREST, HOWEVER, HAS ALWAYS BEEN POLITICS. AT THE AGE

OF 19 HE BEGAN HIS APPRENTICESHIP IN THE PC PARTY SYSTEM BY BECOMING A PRECINCT "DOOR-KNOCKER", AND AT THE AGE OF 24 HE WAS A NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE STUDENT FEDERATION. HE LATER WAS NAMED FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA, AND ASSISTED PETER LOUGHEED IN HIS EARLY CAMPAIGNS.

4. CLARK'S ONLY POLITICAL DEFEAT CAME IN HIS FIRST ATTEMPT FOR PUBLIC OFFICE WHEN, IN 1967, HE LOST A CLOSE DECISION FOR A SEAT IN ALBERTA'S LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. FOLLOWING THIS DEFEAT HE MOVED TO OTTAWA AND SERVED AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE THEN JUSTICE MINISTER DAVIE FULTON IN THE DIEFENBAKER GOVERNMENT, AND THEN AS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO PC PARTY LEADER ROBERT STANFIELD. HE RETURNED TO ALBERTA AND WAS ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN 1972 AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SPRAWLING ROCKY MOUNTAIN RIDING WHICH RUNS WEST FROM CALGARY TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS AND SOUTH TO THE ALBERTA-MONTANA BORDER. CLARK WAS RE-ELECTED IN 1974. HIS FOUR YEARS AS A PC BACKBENCHER WERE NOT PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY, BUT HE REPORTEDLY DEVELOPED INTO A PENETRATING QUESTIONER OF THE TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT.

5. ON JUNE 30, 1973, HE MARRIED MAUREEN ANNE MCTEER, THE DAUGHTER OF JOHN J. MCTEER, A PC PARTY ORGANIZER IN CUMBERLAND, ONTARIO. AT THE AGE OF 16 MAUREEN WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL YOUNG PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE GROUP. #3 8 ,92 23 YEARS OLD, IN HER FINAL YEAR OF A LAW COURSE AT OTTAWA, A TENNIS PLAYER, FILM BUFF, AND HORSEWOMAN. SHE IS AN INDIVIDUAL IN HER OWN RIGHT, HAVING NEARLY AS MUCH EXPERIENCE AS HER HUSBAND IN SUPPORTING THE PC PARTY CAUSE. SHE IS FLUENT IN FRENCH AND HAS HELPED HER HUSBAND TO BECOME EQUALLY FLUENT IN THAT LANGUAGE. THE CLARKS HAVE NO CHILDREN.

6. CLARK, THE YOUNGEST INDIVIDUAL EVER TO LEAD THE PC PARTY, IS A TALL, SLIM, INTELLIGENT INDIVIDUAL. HE HAS BRIGHT BLUE EYES AND REDDISH- BROWN HAIR. HE HAS A MANICURED STYLE OF ORATORY, AND IS CAREFUL WITH HIS GRAMMAR AND PRECISE IN HIS STATEMENTS. HE PRESENTS A TOUCH OF "JIMMY STEWART GOES TO WASHINGTON" IN HIS VOICE AND MANNERS. IF UNCLASSIFIED

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HE HAS HOBBIES FEW PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THEM.

7. PRIOR TO BECOMING PC PARTY LEADER HE HAD EXPERIENCED FEW INSTANCES OF NATIONAL RECOGNITION AND, INDEED, WAS NOT WELL KNOWN THROUGHOUT ALBERTA, BEING SURPASSED BY PREMIER PETER LOUGHEED AND BY SUCH EXPERIENCED PARTY STALWARTS AS ELDON WOOLLIAMS AND JACK HORNER. DURING THE PARTY LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN HIS DISADVANTAGES WERE DESCRIBED AS "TOO

YOUNG, TOO INEXPERIENCED, A RED TORY, AND NOT QUITE READY FOR THE BIG JUMP". APPARENTLY HE PLANS HIS LIFE AS HE PLANS HIS CAREER - SPENDING HIS VACATIONS ABROAD STUDYING FRENCH, AND MARRYING AN "EASTERNER" WHO EQUALS HIM IN DEDICATION TO THE PC PARTY.

8. THE FIRST STEP IN JOE CLARK S EVENTUAL VICTORY IN THE PARTY LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS WAS FOR PREMIER PETER LOUGHEED TO STAY OUT OF THE RACE. TODAY, IN THE SPOTLIGHT OF NATIONAL PROMINENCY, HE PROBABLY REPRESENTS THE NEW WEST MORE THAN EVEN PETER LOUGHEED. HE IS UNMARKED BY PROVINCIAL-FEDERAL DISPUTES OR BY LANGUAGE BARRIERS. HE HAS DEVOTED LITTLE ATTENTION TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND THE REPORTING OFFICER HAS NOT HEARD HIM COMMENT ON U.S.-CANADIAN RELATIONS. HALL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, POLITICAL LEADERS, PARTY LEADERS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976CALGAR00079  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760071-1076  
**From:** CALGARY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760216/aaaaanfj.tel  
**Line Count:** 130  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION INR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** castelsl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by castelsl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JOE CLARK: BACKGROUND BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION  
**TAGS:** PINR, PINT, CA, NATL PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY, (CLARK, JOE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006